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Leadership Highlights Enterprise Approach at Industry Session

By SPAWAR Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO – SPAWAR and the local chapter of the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) cosponsored the SPAWAR Industry Executive Network session Sept. 18 at the Admiral Kidd Club.

The session attracted nearly 200 military, government and industry leaders who exchanged information on topics of mutual interest such as the Naval NETWAR FORCEnet Enterprise, Competency Aligned Organizations, recent changes for the Navy's Program Executive Office for C4I, SPAWAR contracting initiatives and Joint Tactical Radio System program status.

Retired Navy Rear Adm. George Wagner and NDIA San Diego Chapter President Dwayne Junker kicked off the session by announcing the upcoming NNFE and Industry Conference, which will be held Nov. 14-16 in San Diego.

The conference is rapidly becoming the definitive FORCEnet / network-centric warfare event on the West Coast. The goal is to provide networking opportunities for industry and government representatives as SPAWAR acquires, develops and delivers C4ISR capability for the Navy. The conference is open to the public and registration information can be found at <http://2006conference.ndia-sd.org/>.



Rod Smith, SPAWAR Deputy Commander, discusses SPAWAR initiatives with SPAWAR Industry Executive Network attendees Sept. 18 at the Admiral Kidd Club.

Rod Smith, SPAWAR's Deputy Commander, discussed the Navy's enterprise model. The Navy's five acquisition commands have realigned in order to better support the warfighting enterprises: the air, surface, undersea, expeditionary and network communities. SPAWAR belongs to the network enterprise, which is formally known as the Naval Network FORCEnet Enterprise, or NNFE.

Under the NNFE model, the mission requirements lead, fulfilled by the Naval Network Warfare Command, serves as the chief executive officer; the resource sponsor, fulfilled by the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations N-6, serves as the chief financial officer; and the senior acquisition lead, fulfilled by SPAWAR, serves as the chief operating officer. This construct allows the network enterprise community to fully understand the warfighter's requirements, to ensure that the planned activities are fully resourced and to deliver the right capability at the right time and for the right cost.

Smith also discussed Competency Aligned Organization objective that have been established by the Chief of Naval Operations. The CAO construct will provide the framework for SPAWAR organizations to develop standard acquisition procedures and tools, reduce duplication of effort, improve execution efficiency and align knowledge awareness and delivery across the enterprise.

“A Competency Aligned Organization will provide a greater understanding of the workforce by emphasizing each individual’s skills, knowledge and abilities,” said Smith, who also noted that CAO implementation is underway at SPAWAR.

Chris Miller, acting Program Executive Officer (PEO) for C4I, explained recent PEO C4I – JPEO JTRS changes that were directed by the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Research, Defense and Acquisition. The leadership for the Joint Program Executive Office Joint Tactical Radio System (JPEO JTRS) and PEO C4I were realigned into separate positions as outlined in a Sept. 11 memorandum.

Dennis Bauman, who previously had dual responsibilities as the senior executive for both organizations, is now able to devote management efforts exclusively to JTRS. Chris Miller, who previously served as the Deputy PEO C4I, was named acting PEO C4I. In addition, PEO C4I and Space was renamed “PEO C4I” to more accurately reflect the organization’s focus.

Miller discussed PEO C4I’s focus areas for the upcoming fiscal year, which include driving consistency in systems engineering and development, continuing to improve program acquisition and refining organizational precepts.

“We are focused on creating a strong acquisition organization and workforce, and we strive to enhance our relationships with industry partners,” said Miller.

Navy Capt. Barbette Lowndes, Deputy Director of Contracts, followed Miller with an update on SeaPort-e, Lean Six Sigma and Earned Value Management. Lowndes reported that SPAWAR had awarded 46 SeaPort-e task orders throughout the 2006 fiscal year. The average lead time for a proposal to be awarded is nearly 40 days. Lowndes also reported that the Contracts department conducted Lean Six Sigma events to shorten the average length of the proposal evaluation process. The department’s goal is to decrease competitive proposal evaluations by 50 percent.

Dennis Bauman, the Joint Program Executive Officer for JTRS, wrapped up the session by presenting an update on program’s development. According to Bauman, the JPEO is also driving toward instituting a enterprise approach at the Department of Defense level to further develop and deliver JTRS capabilities. The recent adoption of the enterprise business model will effectively support interoperability objectives and maximize competition.

“We have turned this program around,” said Bauman, who noted that the new model includes a joint governance process. “We are now effectively managing cost, schedule and performance in order to reach our goals.”



Chris Miller, acting Program Executive Officer for C4I, says he is focused on building industry partnerships and being the Fleet's C4I provider of choice.

SIEN networking sessions typically occur quarterly and serve as a forum for industry and government to collaborate on new initiatives. Additional information on SPAWAR - NDIA cosponsored events, including the 11th annual NNFE and Industry Conference, can be accessed at <http://www.ndia-sd.org/>.